

comprising areas treated with a film forming composition, said discrete areas being in the shape of bands spaced along said longitudinal axis, said reduced permeability areas defining a gradually decreasing permeability profile in the longitudinal direction [a burning direction of said smoking article] such that permeability reduction in said reduced permeability areas gradually increases from a minimum zero permeability reduction to a maximum permeability reduction [in said burning direction].

2. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim 1, further comprising an area of sustained maximum permeability reduction following said gradually decreasing permeability profile [in said burning direction].

4. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim 1, wherein said discrete areas of reduced permeability further comprise a gradually increasing permeability profile following said gradually decreasing permeability profile [in said burning direction of said smoking article].

6. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim 5, wherein said discrete areas of reduced permeability comprise a substantially ramp-shaped profile with increasing and decreasing ramp sections [section].

7. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim 1 [7], wherein said treated areas comprise areas treated with a film forming aqueous solution.

8. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim 1 [7], wherein said treated areas comprise areas treated with a non-

aqueous solution of a solvent soluble cellulosic polymer

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ay (cont) dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent.

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a5 11 ~~12~~. (Amended) The smoking article as in claim ~~11~~¹⁰, wherein said area of maximum reduced permeability has a length of at least 4 mm in the longitudinal direction.

a6 12 ~~14~~. (Amended) A smoking article wrapper having discrete areas of reduced permeability for improving ignition proclivity control of a smoking article, said discrete areas comprising areas treated with a film forming composition, said discrete areas being in the shape of horizontal bands spaced apart in a longitudinal direction, said reduced permeability areas defining at least one gradually changing permeability profile in the longitudinal [a burning] direction [which is essentially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said wrapper] such that permeability in said changing permeability area gradually changes from zero permeability reduction to a maximum permeability reduction.

12 13 ~~15~~. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim ~~14~~¹², wherein said changing permeability profile comprises a gradually decreasing permeability profile in said longitudinal [burning] direction such that permeability reduction in said reduced permeability areas increases from zero permeability reduction to a maximum permeability reduction.

a7 18 ~~10~~ ~~17~~. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim ~~14~~¹², wherein said discrete areas of reduced permeability have [comprise cross directional bands having] a substantially ramp-

shaped profile [on at least one side thereof].

15 18. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim 15, wherein said discrete areas of reduced permeability further comprise a gradually increasing permeability profile following said gradually decreasing permeability profile in said [burning] longitudinal direction of said wrapper.

17 20. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim 17, wherein said discrete areas of reduced permeability comprise a substantially ramp-shaped profile with increasing and decreasing ramp sections [section].

19 22. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim 19, wherein said treated areas comprise areas treated with a film forming aqueous solution.

20 23. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim 20, wherein said treated areas comprise areas treated with a non-aqueous solution of a solvent soluble cellulosic polymer dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent.

23 26. (Amended) The smoking article wrapper as in claim 23, wherein said area of maximum reduced permeability has a longitudinal length of at least 4 mm.

Please add the following new claims:

24 --28. The smoking article as in claim 1, wherein said bands are continuous around the circumference of the smoking article.

25 29. The smoking article wrapper as in claim 24, wherein said bands extend the entire width of said wrapper.--